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How's it going everyone? Welcome back to your favorite newsletter. So, what's been happening? Not to flex, but perhaps the most important thing to happen this March was my birthday. I am now 25 years old. It was a pretty tame affair, got my favorite cake and gifts from my loving family. For those of you who knew me in high school I used to enjoy keeping my birthday a secret, and I had a good thing going until the principal announced my birthday the Friday before the weekend. Didn't really have a reason to hide it, I don't feel like I need to celebrate it but I'm not opposed to the date. 3/25 has a good ring to it, a prime number followed by a square number that doesn't fall near any holidays. I also decided to try on some volunteering. There was a nonprofit I had heard of called MIRA, who were hosting an immigrants day at the state house. I had signed up to help because it was my day off. Ultimately I didn't really end up doing anything and I got a t-shirt. The governor did walk like 4 steps from me though in a shockingly orange ensemble. After the event, though, I went to speak to my state senator and rep which made me feel very civic minded. I ended up not seeing my senator because he is apparently still in the navy(?) and the war in Iran means that he's not available. I did end up meeting another group of people who were going around talking to our elected officials who seemed to have talked with him before and thought he was a bit too moderate. We did actually talk to our state representative whose group seemed more receptive to the new bill that would help protect immigrants in Boston. Finally- a random story. One Friday I was taking the bus to my job as you do and when we were pulling into the station we had to go to the lower level because there were about 12 cop cars with their lights on up top. The bus driver said apparently someone pulled a knife on a bus driver and when a cop responded he was stabbed too, explaining why there were so many cars. Thankfully did not impede my commute but notable to see nonetheless.

PURCHASES

An unpainted Chaos Space Marine Obliterator. I saw it in a bin in front of the Goodwill and asked if it was fore sale. The cashier said it wasn't yet and I accepted that; when I went to take a photo of it she came up and said "actually just take it my manager isn't watching" so I followed her lead. A very expensive piece of plastic, it would normally cost like $20 believe it or not (one of the smaller pieces of an $82 three piece set). Every time I've been to this Goodwill they always have some interesting nerd stuff. I've seen countless premium board games (I got a still sealed Ticket to Ride) and even a sealed pack of Magic cards from back in the day, something I've never seen before or since.

OK Computer by Radiohead on CD. Perhaps the best reason to get into collecting CDs is that there's a bunch of them lying in every thrift store, and unlike records you don't need to worry about condition as much. Also, personally I am a much bigger fan of the music that was coming out during the age of CDs vs records, and you need much less equipment to play CDs than records, I got my CD player for around $15 compared to the $150 you'd have to shell out for a quality record. Either way, for $2.50 I will grab what is easily in my top 30 albums.

SALES

On the other end of buying is selling, and I finally sold my first item (object? thing?) on Facebook Marketplace.I had picked up another Canon AE-1 camera from a lot as it contained a lens I wanted, and I was willing to pay the ticket price just for the lens, so I was quite happy to get a camera body along with it. I may have already said this before, but I do think that there is some bad karma or other otherworldly force associated with reselling things you bought from a flea market/thrift store, but I think selling it for less than I bought it for and taking the part I want absolves me enough for the hit to be negligible. The camera had a shutter that was stuck up, which I made sure to note in the listing. Funnily enough, the first response was someone telling me that the issue with the shutter was likely due to the magnets involved in the shutter process. I thanked him for his advice and updated the listing, and sadly that was the only good answer I'd get to my listing for awhile. After that I had a torrent of "is this available?" comments from people who couldn't be less interested to know the answer. Thankfully there were some people among the swarm who were actually interested in a camera with a busted shutter. I ended up selling it for the listed $30 to a nice young gentleman who put up with me having to push the date back because I forgot to bring it to work one day. I would rate the experience positively and of course an extra $30 is nothing to sneeze at. I don't plan to make a habit out of this but who knows what the future holds?

IN CONCLUSION

The style of the newsletter depends on whatever eclectic assortment of themes they give me when I press the create button, and I will say I am quite fond of this one. I think the formatting lent itself to a solid stream of thought more than when I make the big colorful blocks. Also I have to think about some possible "cost" cutting measures. As I've mentioned I am currently printing as many color copies as the library will legally let me per month, which lets me send 16 of these out. However, going black and white would grant me some leeway. This does, however, make the price of stamps rise a bit more. It is all more or less negligible but things to think about nonetheless. If anyone has themes they'd like to see or ideas address, please let me know, and also know that I am always willing to sell out and if you want to run an ad on the newsletter I can be bought for very cheap. Thank you for tuning in this week and stay tuned for the 1 year anniversary coming next issue...